



For Immediate Release
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RETIREE LEADER APPLAUDS MEDICAID EXPANSION PLAN

Tempe, AZ – Doug Hart, President of the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans, a grassroots advocacy organization with over 40,500 members statewide, released the following statement:

"Gov. Jan Brewer's recommendation to expand healthcare coverage to low-income Arizonans is common-sense. It is right to follow the law and expand access to Medicaid in Arizona. I am mystified as to why some are hassling Gov. Brewer for following the law and doing something that makes sound economic sense.

The new federal law, the Affordable Care Act, requires states to offer Medicaid coverage to adults with income up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level. Arizona already requires coverage of adults at 100 percent of the poverty level, and we should join other states in abiding by the law.

Expanding Medicaid comes at no state expense, at no cost to our general fund. In fact, in adding 57,000 Arizonans to Medicaid, we can get federal support and reduce state expenses. This also upholds the will of Arizona voters who voted twice to restore Medicaid.

Health care needs do not go away because individuals do not have insurance coverage. When people are uninsured and cannot pay their bills, it leads to higher private insurance premiums and local taxes to cover the cost of providing uncompensated care. Medicaid turns out to be an important source of funding for rural hospitals and inner-city health care facilities and spending for health care spending generates an economic stimulus. Expanding Medicaid strengthens our economy, communities and our health care facilities.

I applaud Gov. Brewer for making the right decision on expanding Medicaid. Seniors will stand with her on May 15 at the Rally for Restoration."

The Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans is a grassroots non-profit, non-partisan retiree advocacy group with over 40,500 members statewide. For more information, visit www.arizonaretiredamericans.org

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